



State of Wisconsin
Department of Public Instruction
Elizabeth Burmaster, State Superintendent

NEWS RELEASE

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Wisconsin improves writing scores on NAEP

State's overall performance on eighth-grade state assessment is above the national average

MADISON—Wisconsin public school eighth-graders improved their performance on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) writing assessment, with an overall average scale score of 158 for 2007 compared to 153 in 1998. The NAEP writing assessment was administered to 2,585 eighth-grade students in a sampling of schools throughout the state.

Scale scores were above the national average for most student groups in Wisconsin. The state's Hispanic students (149) and English-Language Learners (141) in the NAEP sample student group had average scale scores that were significantly higher than their national peers, (141 and 120 respectively). However, in Wisconsin and the nation, gaps in achievement remain between economically disadvantaged students, students of color, students with disabilities, those who are learning English, and their peers.

"Our overall student achievement is improving and parallels what we see on other assessments," said State Superintendent Elizabeth Burmaster. "We must stay focused on raising achievement for all students, in particular our African-American students, and closing achievement gaps."

She cited proven programming such as early learning through 4-year-old kindergarten, more individualized attention through smaller class sizes, increased adolescent literacy instruction, improved nutrition through school breakfast in addition to the state's successful school lunch programs, and comprehensive school health programs as being among the efforts that provide support for student academic achievement. "We know what works: quality educators in every classroom and strong leaders in every school, early learning opportunities and small class sizes, and shared responsibility by parents, schools, and communities to support student academic achievement," Burmaster said.

(more)

Wisconsin was among 45 states and jurisdictions that participated in the 2007 eighth-grade state writing assessment, administered between January and March of 2007. NAEP policies protect the privacy of individual students and their families and do not provide for the identification of participating schools.

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NOTES: The table below provides additional information about National Assessment of Educational Progress writing results. This news release is available electronically at http://dpi.wi.gov/eis/pdf/dpi2008_60.pdf. Additional information about the NAEP 2007 Writing Assessment is available at <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreportcard/>.

NAEP 2007 State Writing Assessment				
Eighth-Grade Public School Writing Achievement				
	Average Scale Score			
	Wisconsin		Nation	
	1998	2007	1998	2007
Overall	153	158	148	154
Males	141	146	138	144
Females	166	170	158	164
White	155	162	155	162
Black	140	131	130	140
Hispanic	138	149	130	141
Asian	--	167	152	166
Economically Disadvantaged	141	142	131	141
Not Economically Disadvantaged	157	164	156	164
Students with Disabilities	112	115	109	118
Students without Disabilities	156	163	151	159
English-Language Learners	--	141	107	120
Not English-Language Learners	153	158	149	156

NOTES: The sample size for Asian and ELL students in Wisconsin was too small in 1998 to be reported. Socio-economic status is determined by eligibility for free or reduced-price school lunch. Wisconsin did not meet minimum participation guidelines for its scores to be included in the 2002 NAEP writing assessment.